

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting June 17, 2009

RI Veterans Cemetery, Exeter

In Attendance: Evelyn Wheeler, Edna Kent, Henry Duquette, Judith Fardig, Robert Butler, James Spears, Letty Champion, Peggie Malcolm, Bruce MacGunnigle, Carolyn Crist- Schwab, Paul Robinson, David Kirchner, Lee Teverow

Excused Absences: Sally Small

Meeting called to order at 6:50 pm by Chairwoman Wheeler

1. Introduction of Minutes April 15, 2009

Sally Small submitted a correction via e-mail, which was distributed to members

Motion to accept minutes as amended by Bruce MacGunnigle, with a second by

Judith Fardig

11 – 0 to accept minutes as amended

2. Next year's meeting schedule

September 16, 2009 RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (Paul Robinson to arrange)

November 18, 2009 Newport Public Library

April 21, 2010 Woonsocket Public Library

June 15, 2010 North Kingstown Public Library (Evelyn Wheeler to arrange)

3. Chairwoman Wheeler reported that an Eagle Scout had thoroughly cleaned Lincoln #30. Overgrowth was cleared, poison ivy was killed, existing railings were repaired, donations for new railings were obtained, and a local representative donated \$50 for a new sign. The Scout was unable to attend the meeting and do his presentation, but will attend a future meeting. Chairwoman Wheeler encouraged all Commission Members to ask their local representatives for donations for signs

**4. Report from RIACHC Purpose and Rules Committee – Lee Teverow
Introduced and read the minutes of the June 8, 2009 meeting
Discussion regarding the fact that the RIACHC is a conduit for passing information**

Commission members must bring to the full Commission any issues that are not fully addressed by RIGL, and the full Commission must approve responses involving a dispute

Recommend adding to the Rules and Regulations information regarding duties of officers, commission members, term limits, and procedures for nomination of officers

Motion to request that the Purpose and Rules Committee draft suggested additions to the Rules and Regulations and bring back to full Committee by Bruce MacGunnigle, with a second by Robert Butler

13 - 0 to approve motion

5. Chairwoman Wheeler reported that Heather MacDonald has agreed to a compromise with regard to her original request to renumber two EG cemeteries

6. Report on Rules and Regulations filing by Chairwoman Wheeler
Rules and Regulations have officially been adopted – distributed at meeting

Ted Sanderson from the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission recommended changes via a letter

- Modify Rule 1: Purpose to read “The purpose of these rules and regulations is to establish the operating procedures of the Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries”**

- Modify Rule 2: Authority to read “...promulgated pursuant to Chapter 23-18.3-1...”**

7. Report on Archives by Chairwoman Wheeler

Chairwoman Wheeler provided the RI State Archives with copies of the original Commission’s meeting minutes, as well as the last 3 years of the current Commission’s meeting minutes

8. Report on Locust Grove Cemetery (PV004) database by Chairwoman Wheeler

Now complete with the exception of 6 stones that need to be checked. John Sterling has been provided with the information.

9. Gary Alexander, the new Director of the RI Department of Human

Services sent letters requesting proposals. Discussion tabled.

10. Report on proposal for website by Henry Duquette

Introduced and reviewed the Proposal

Henry will review with Kenneth Rahn who is currently administering the database website

11. DOT letters received for proposed project in Pawtucket

Discussion regarding possibly drafting a “Form Letter” that thanks the DOT for informing the Commission, and refers them to the appropriate local authority. Henry Duquette and Paul Robinson will develop a draft for review.

12. Other Business

a. Bruce MacGunnigle reported that he found reference to two cemeteries on his street while researching deeds, but that they only appeared to be in use for a very short period before being moved . They have been identified as EG #90 and #91, and he has been able to determine who the likely burials were and where they have been relocated to.

b. Robert Butler discussed a cemetery on Fish Hill Road on West Greenwich/Coventry line that appeared in an 1840 deed but was moved in the 1900’s to Maple Root Cemetery. John Sterling is going to assign a number to it, but the owner of the property, who landscaped the area, says there is no evidence of it

c. Sally Small, via e-mail, suggested that the Commission consider

setting up workshops for gravestone photography. The Rhode Island Genealogical Society is doing one in September.

d. Coventry Cemetery Commission had a meeting on June 16, and there were about 15 in attendance. Next meeting July 7th – location TBD

e. Chairwoman Wheeler passed around “In and About Westerly” by Thomas O’Connell, who was in attendance

Bruce MacGunnigle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Robert Butler. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Corbett, Secretary